

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15 has been amended as follows:

A method for matching microphones in a hearing aid, as well as a hearing aid operating according to the method, are known from German PS 199 27 278. In this case, a hearing aid with two or more microphones which are connected to one another in order to produce a directional characteristic is ensounded while being worn in a suitable measurement area, and the directional characteristic is recorded. Filter parameters which result from this can be supplied to configurable filters which are connected downstream from the microphones and it is thus possible to approximate the desired ideal directional characteristic taking account of the individual characteristics when the hearing aid is being worn. This method allows filter parameters to be produced for amplitude ~~and/or~~ and phase response matching of signals recorded by the microphones, in order to optimize the directional characteristic of the microphones.

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17 has been amended as follows:

In a further embodiment of the invention, the weighting has an amplitude factor ~~and/or~~ and a phase factor in particular for correction of the amplitude or phase, respectively, of one of the microphone signals. The weighting, for example in the form of the amplitude ~~and/or~~ and phase factor, may be stored, with the storage process being carried out, for example, in the form of frequency dependent and direction dependent families of characteristics. The various weightings can be read selectively from the memory in order to produce the directional microphone signals.

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 22 has been amended as follows:

In one embodiment, the two microphones are connected to respective filter banks in order to subdivide the microphone signals into frequency bands, so that frequency band signal components of the microphone signals are produced at the outputs of the filter banks. The outputs of the respective filter banks with the same frequency bands are connected in pairs to a unit which combines the frequency band signal components using a weighting. The weighting is produced by amplitude units, which vary the amplitude of the corresponding frequency band signal component, ~~and/or~~ and by means of phase units which shift the phase of the corresponding frequency band signal component. The amplitude units and the phase units act either jointly on one or individually on each of the frequency band signal components. The amplitude units and the phase units are connected to an assessment unit, which assesses the directional microphone signals on the basis of a quantity for the aforementioned influence, and uses this to determine an direction of incidence for a signal from a signal source.

The paragraph beginning at page 14, line 15 has been amended as follows:

Figure 4 shows, schematically, an example of a design of an apparatus for carrying out the method. The microphones M1, M2 are connected to a respective filter bank FB1 or FB2. A frequency band $\Delta F, \Delta F'$ of the microphone signals ~~S1, S2~~ MS1, MS2 is produced at the respective outputs of the filter banks FB1, FB2. Outputs with a matching frequency band $\Delta F, \Delta F'$ are connected in pairs to a series of units G1, G2, G3, G4, which are combined with different weightings. This means that ~~on the one hand~~ the microphone signal MS1 which is restricted to the frequency band ΔF and ~~on the other hand~~ the microphone signal MS2 which is restricted to the same frequency band ΔF are available for weighted combination.

The paragraph beginning at page 15, line 9 has been amended as follows:

The outputs of the combining units G1, G2, G3, G4 with different weightings are connected to an assessment unit B for the frequency band ΔF . The assessment unit B compares the "candidate" directional microphone signals ~~RMS1, RMS2~~ RMS1 with respect to a ~~measure~~ quantity which measures the influence of the respective directional characteristic on the each directional microphone signal ~~RMS1, RMS2~~ RMS1. By way of example, the signal level, the signal energy, the noise component in the signal or the reciprocal of the signal energy, that is to say the probability, may be used as an assessment measure. The "candidate" directional microphone signals ~~RMS1, RMS2~~ RMS1 assessed in this way are compared with one another, and ~~that~~ the directional microphone signal ~~RMS1, RMS2~~ ARMS1 is determined whose assessment has an extreme value, that is to say, for example, has a minimal signal energy on the basis of the signal energy in the assessment, or has the maximum probability in the assessment of the probability. The direction of the minimum of the directional characteristic of this directional microphone signal is the direction of incidence of a signal source in this frequency band ΔF . This assessed directional microphone signal is supplied to an analysis unit 11. Alternatively, for example, it is possible to transmit the probabilities for all of the directions investigated using the measured directional microphone signals from the assessment unit to ~~an~~ the analysis unit 11.

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 1 has been amended as follows:

An analogous procedure is used in all the other frequency bands, as schematically shown for frequency band $\Delta F'$ for which ARMS 2 is produced from

“candidate” directional signals RMS2. In this case, specific amplitude and phase factors are used for the weighted combination.

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 3 has been amended as follows:

The analysis unit 11 evaluates the direction of incidences which are determined in the various frequency ranges, tests their consistency, and attempts, for example, to identify echo signals.

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 6 has been amended as follows:

The result ARMS from the analysis unit 11 is supplied, for example, to a signal processing unit 13, for example hearing aid signal processing. This uses the analysis results to control an algorithm for interference signal suppression, or amplifies the respectively desired signal on the basis of the hearing damage of the wearer.